

The *Great* **FABLES** *Crossover*  
part **1** of 9



Willingham • Buckingham • Sturges • Pepoy **VERTIGO**

**F** **A** **B** **L** **E** **S**

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# The Great *!!!* FABLES Crossover

part **1** of 9



"WHEN THINGS LOOK DARKEST, BLUE WILL RETURN TO THE SOUND OF A THOUSAND MIGHTY TRUMPETS!"

"HE'LL COME BATHED IN BLUE LIGHT, RIDING A GREAT WAR STALLION AND WIELDING A SWORD OF DIVINE AND TERRIBLE POWER!"

## THE CALL

### The Story So Far...

Things aren't looking too good for our heroes. Fabletown is destroyed. The Fables are refugees again, on the run and currently hiding out at the Farm. Mister Dark has moved into the ruins of Bullfinch Street and has begun building his long-term personal residence there. If that wasn't bad enough, tensions are near the breaking point as Fables begin to fight among themselves. Take Bigby and Beast for example...

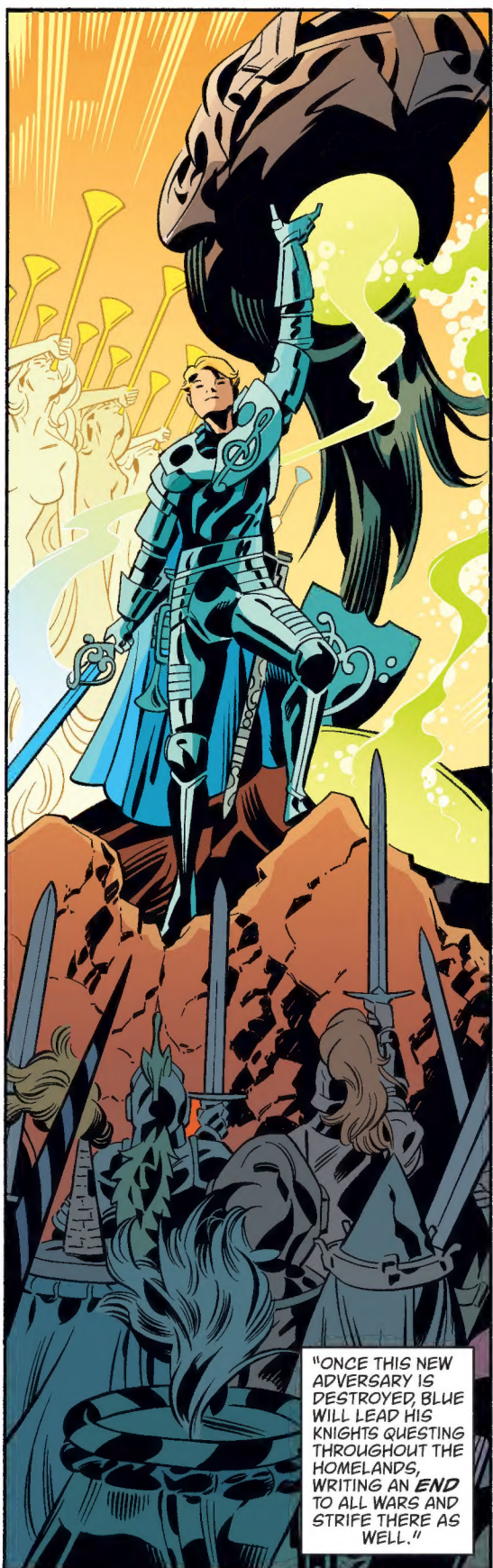
Bill Willingham & Mark Andrew Lee Todd Joao Angela Shelly  
 Matthew Sturges Buckingham Pepoy Loughridge Klein Ruas Rufino Bond  
 writers pencils inks colors letters cover assoc. ed. editor

"BLUE WILL LEAD AN ARMY OF ONE HUNDRED KNIGHTS-- MAGICAL PALADINS FROM BEYOND THE MORTAL VEIL.

"FIRST, WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN OUR WORLD, THEY'LL RETURN TO THE RUINS OF FABLETOWN TO CONFRONT THE DARK CREATURE THERE.

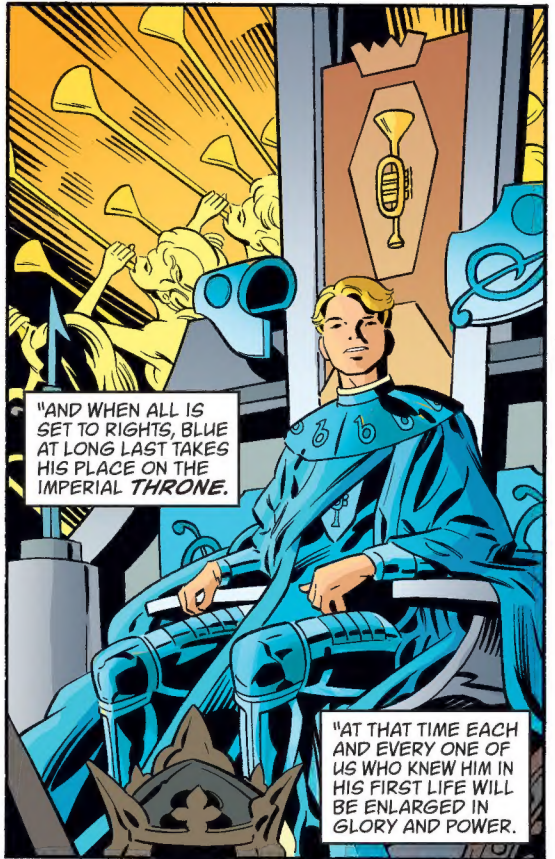


"BLUE WILL FIGHT THE DARK ONE IN SINGLE COMBAT AND END OUR CURRENT TRIBULATIONS WITH ONE SWIPE OF HIS HOLY BLADE.



"ONCE THIS NEW ADVERSARY IS DESTROYED, BLUE WILL LEAD HIS KNIGHTS QUESTING THROUGHOUT THE HOMELANDS, WRITING AN END TO ALL WARS AND STRIFE THERE AS WELL."

"HE WILL RESTORE THE FALLEN EMPIRE, REPLACING DESPOTISM WITH BENEVOLENCE AND BONDAGE WITH HIS PERFECT GRACE AND FREEDOM."



"AND WHEN ALL IS SET TO RIGHTS, BLUE AT LONG LAST TAKES HIS PLACE ON THE IMPERIAL THRONE."

"AT THAT TIME EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US WHO KNEW HIM WILL BE ENLARGED IN GLORY AND POWER."

"LIKE FLYCATCHER, WHO PRECEDED US TO ESTABLISH THE DIVINE TEMPLATE, WE WILL EACH BECOME **KINGS** AND **QUEENS** OF THE RESTORED EMPIRE'S MANY LANDS."



AND BLUE WILL BE THE WISE AND LOVING EMPEROR RULING OVER US FOR ALL TIME, WORLDS WITHOUT END."



FROM NOW ON, THOSE OF YOU WHO CHOOSE LIKE ME TO FOLLOW THE **BLUE WAY** WILL SIGNIFY YOUR DEVOTION BY WEARING A CLOTH LIKE MINE.



A NECKERCHIEF OR SCARF OF BRIGHTEST BLUE, PURE AND UNDECORATED, TO SHOW THAT YOU NUMBER YOURSELVES AMONG OUR BRETHREN.

AND JUST LIKE *THAT* A NEW RELIGION IS BORN.



I DOUBT THIS IS GOING TO TURN OUT WELL.

I DON'T KNOW, CLARA. PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT TO BELIEVE.

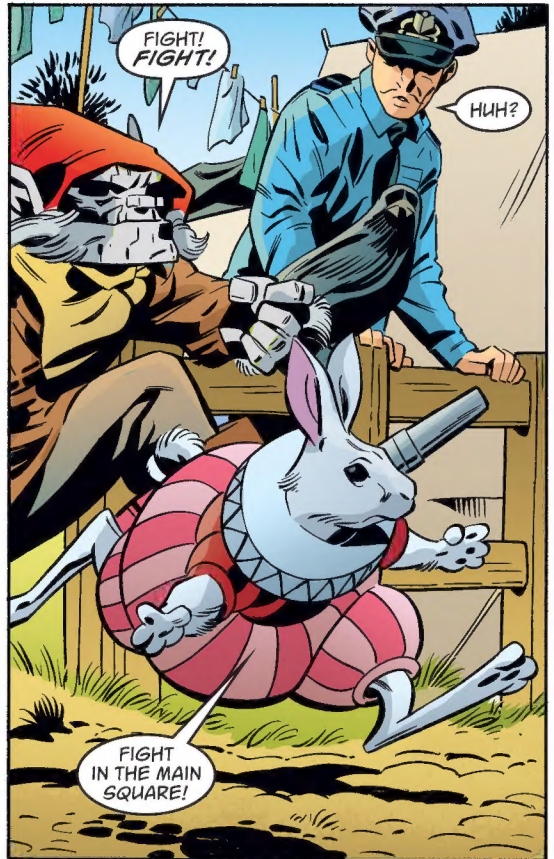
THIS SEEMS HARMLESS ENOUGH.



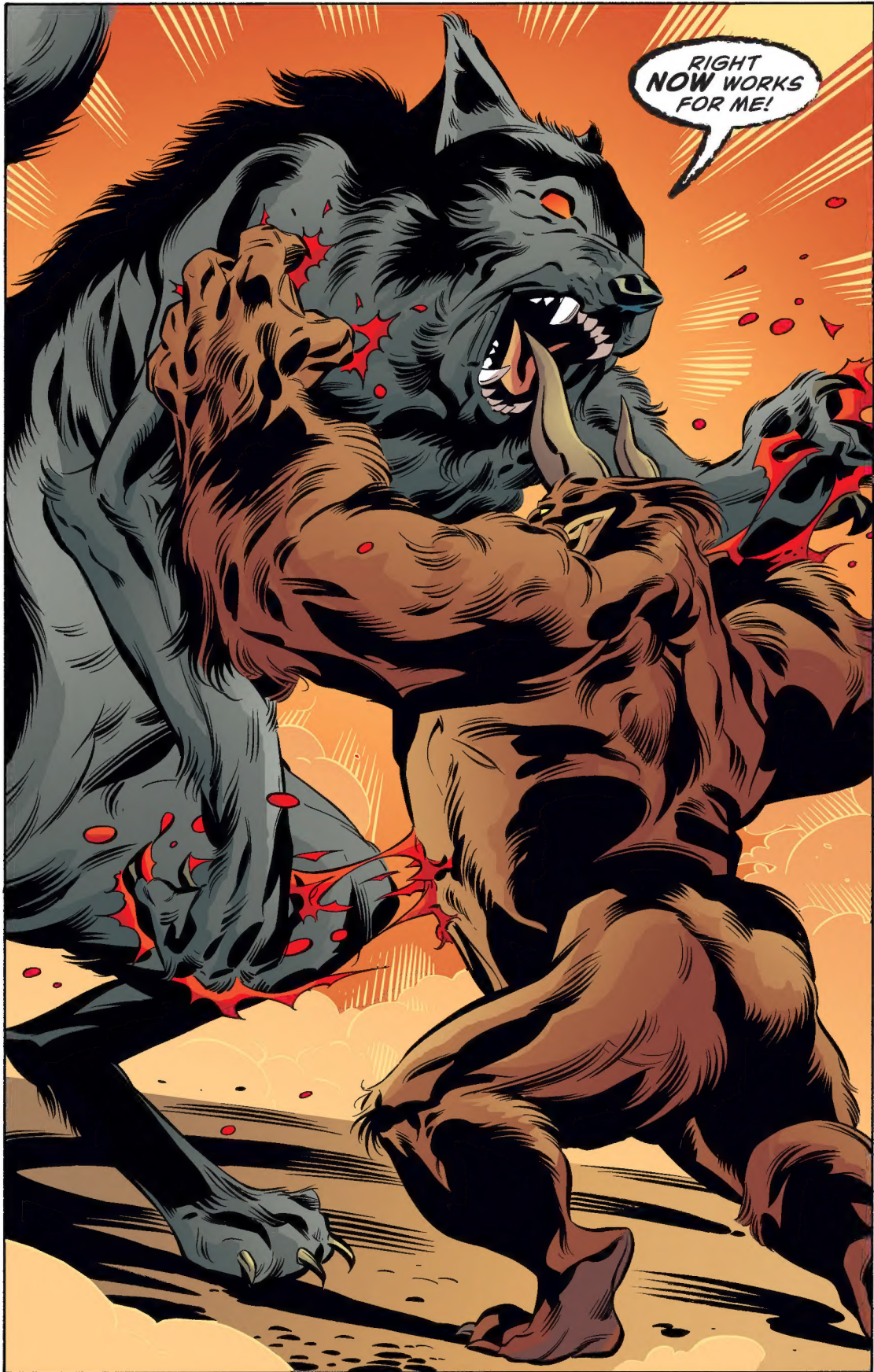
YOU THINK SO? WHAT **COLOR** ARE A BADGER'S EYES?

BROWN, I WOULD GUESS. AREN'T THEY? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH--?

UNTIL TODAY STINKY'S EYES WERE A **NORMAL** BADGER BROWN.







RIGHT  
NOW WORKS  
FOR ME!

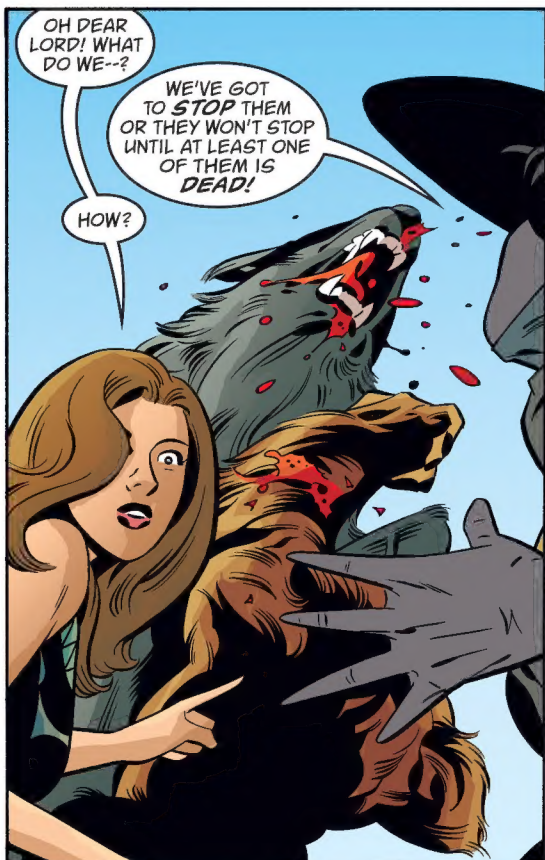






CHRIST ALMIGHTY!

WHAT IS IT *THIS* TIME?



OH DEAR LORD! WHAT DO WE--?

WE'VE GOT TO **STOP** THEM OR THEY WON'T STOP UNTIL AT LEAST ONE OF THEM IS **DEAD!**

HOW?



GET IN BETWEEN THEM AND HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH REASON LEFT THAT THEY **RECOGNIZE** US. COME ON!

**STUPID DAMNED** WAY TO TEST THE STRENGTH OF TWO VERY UNLIKELY **MARRIAGES**, IF YOU ASK ME!

OH, WELL. NO GUTS, NO GLORY.



**STOP THIS!**

**STOP THIS NOW!!**

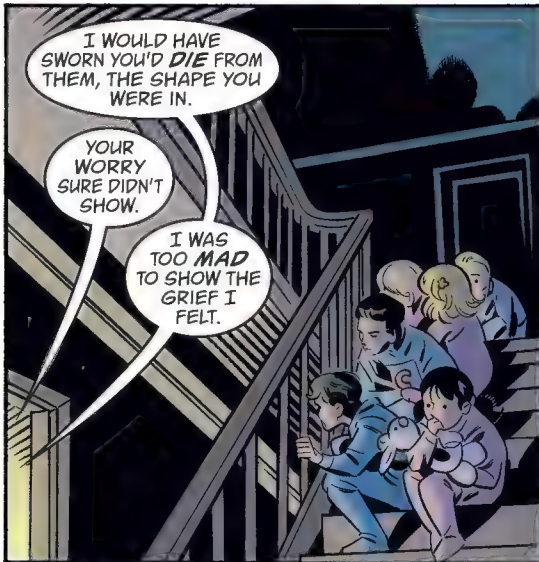






WOLF MANOR, LATER THAT EVENING.

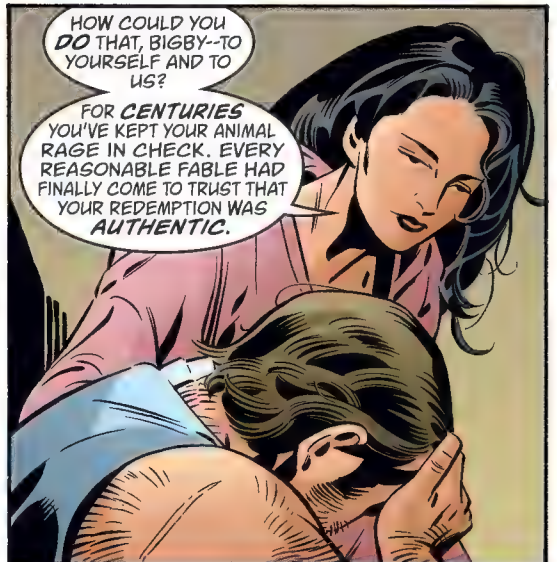
WELL, YOUR WOUNDS HAVE HEALED, THANKS TO YOUR MAGICAL NATURE.



I WOULD HAVE SWORN YOU'D DIE FROM THEM, THE SHAPE YOU WERE IN.

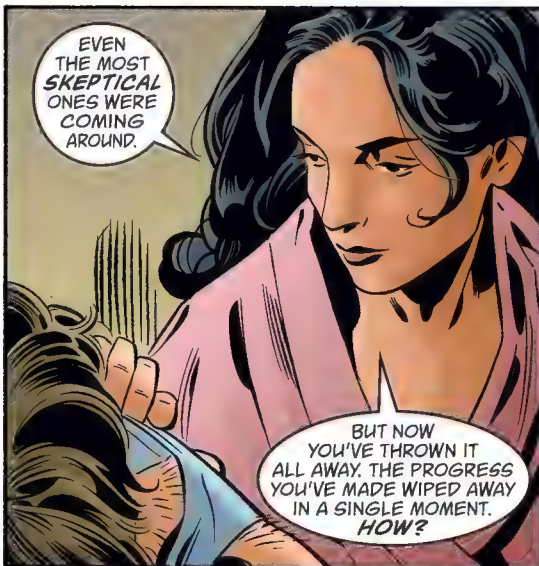
YOUR WORRY SURE DIDN'T SHOW.

I WAS TOO MAD TO SHOW THE GRIEF I FELT.



HOW COULD YOU DO THAT, BIGBY--TO YOURSELF AND TO US?

FOR CENTURIES YOU'VE KEPT YOUR ANIMAL RAGE IN CHECK. EVERY REASONABLE FABLE HAD FINALLY COME TO TRUST THAT YOUR REDEMPTION WAS AUTHENTIC.



EVEN THE MOST SKEPTICAL ONES WERE COMING AROUND.

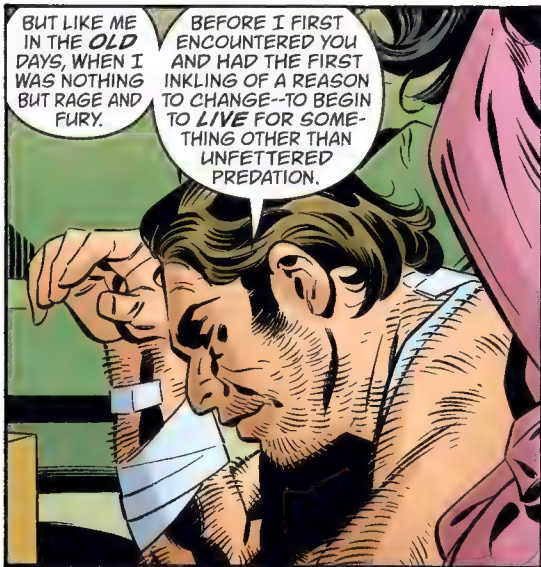
BUT NOW YOU'VE THROWN IT ALL AWAY. THE PROGRESS YOU'VE MADE WIPED AWAY IN A SINGLE MOMENT. HOW?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I WAS JUST SO DAMNNED TIRED OF BEING SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT, AND I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER.

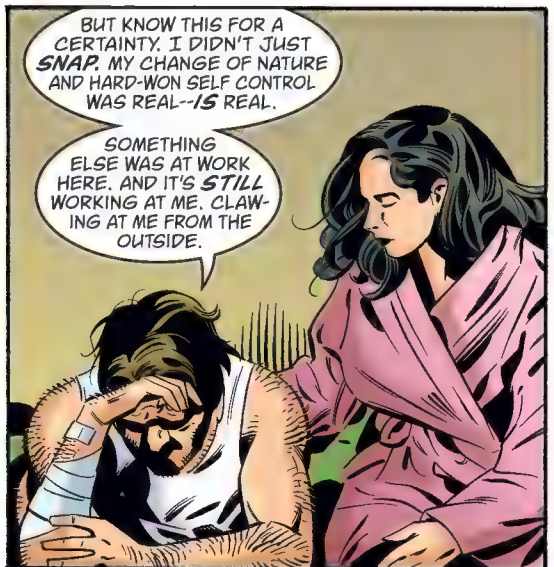
IT WASN'T LIKE ME, IT--

ACTUALLY, NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE. IT WAS EXACTLY LIKE ME.



BUT LIKE ME IN THE **OLD** DAYS, WHEN I WAS NOTHING BUT RAGE AND FURY.

BEFORE I FIRST ENCOUNTERED YOU AND HAD THE FIRST INKLING OF A REASON TO CHANGE--TO BEGIN TO **LIVE** FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN UNFETTERED PREDATION.



BUT KNOW THIS FOR A CERTAINTY. I DIDN'T JUST **SNAP**. MY CHANGE OF NATURE AND HARD-WON SELF CONTROL WAS REAL--**IS** REAL.

SOMETHING ELSE WAS AT WORK HERE. AND IT'S **STILL** WORKING AT ME. CLAWING AT ME FROM THE OUTSIDE.



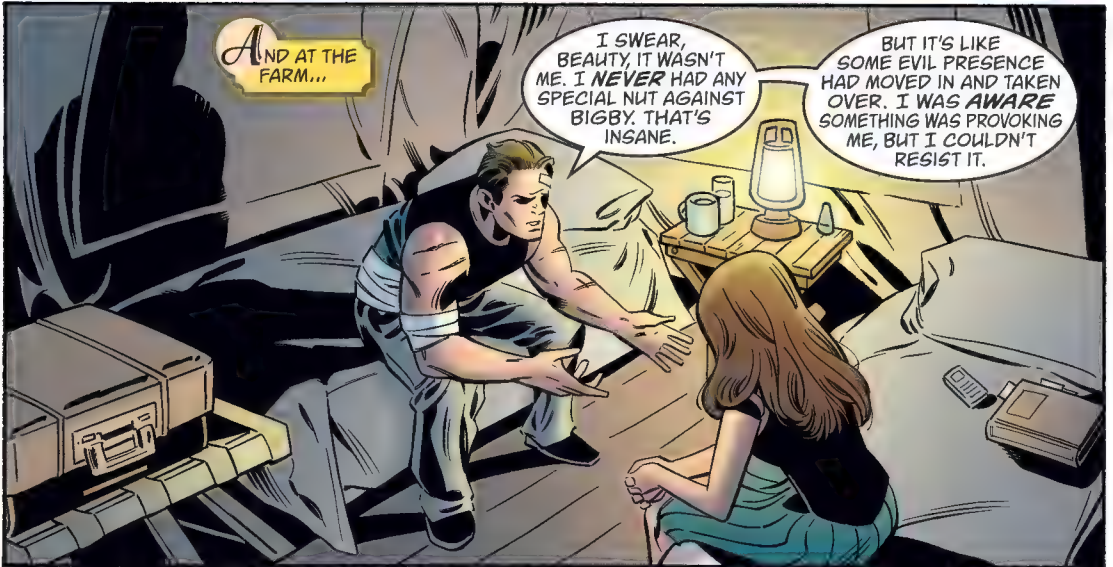
I CAN FEEL IT--HIM--**WORRYING** AT ME, LIKE A DOG AT A BONE.

I THINK IT'S THE DARK THING DOWN IN FABLETOWN. HE'S TOO CLOSE, EVEN WAY DOWN IN THE CITY.



I NEED TO PUT MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND THE DARK ONE OR THE MONSTER IS SURE TO COME OUT AGAIN.

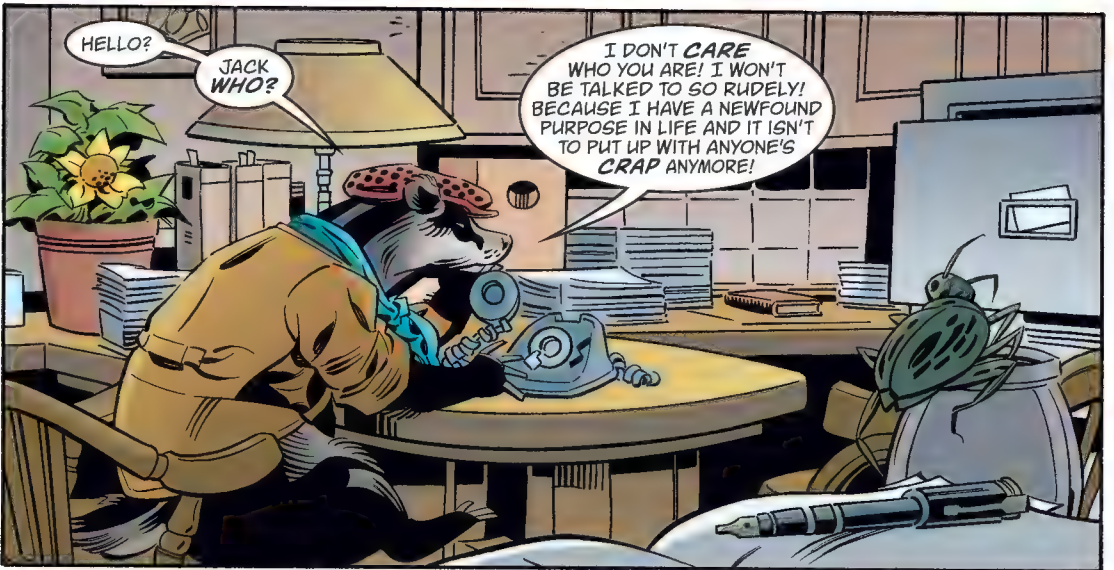
I **CAN'T** LET THAT HAPPEN, SNOW. NOT AROUND YOU. NOT AROUND THE CUBS.



AND AT THE FARM...

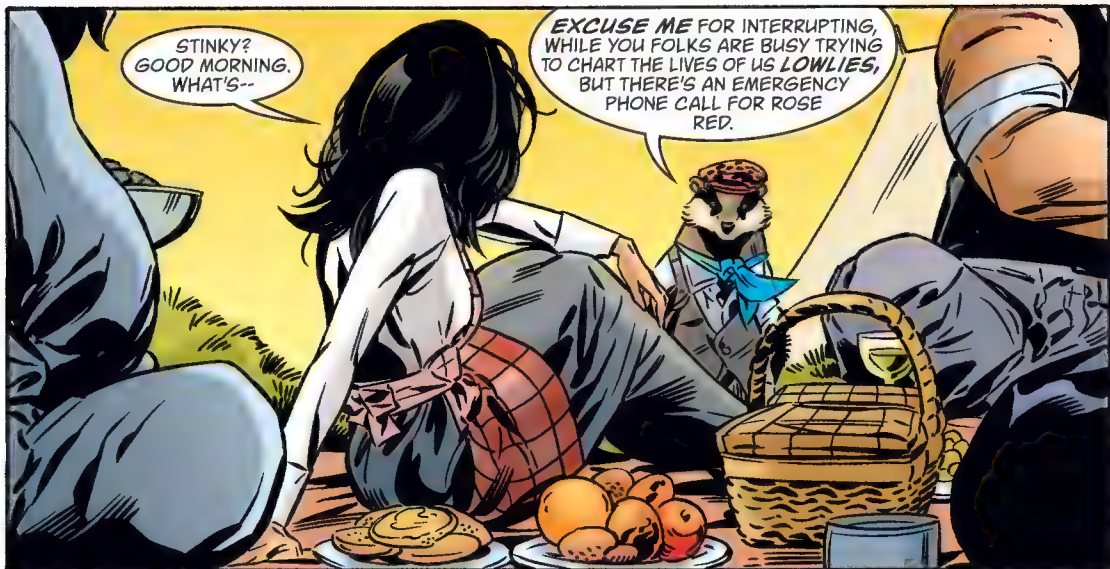
I SWEAR, BEAUTY, IT WASN'T ME. I **NEVER** HAD ANY SPECIAL NUT AGAINST BIGBY. THAT'S INSANE.

BUT IT'S LIKE SOME EVIL PRESENCE HAD MOVED IN AND TAKEN OVER. I WAS **AWARE** SOMETHING WAS PROVOKING ME, BUT I COULDN'T RESIST IT.









STINKY?  
GOOD MORNING.  
WHAT'S--

EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING,  
WHILE YOU FOLKS ARE BUSY TRYING  
TO CHART THE LIVES OF US **LOWLIES**,  
BUT THERE'S AN EMERGENCY  
PHONE CALL FOR ROSE  
RED.



BUT ROSE RED WON'T  
GET OUT OF **BED** TO  
TAKE CALLS.

WHAT KIND OF  
EMERGENCY?

I DIDN'T ASK.  
NONE OF MY BUSINESS.  
AND **PLEASE** UNDERSTAND  
THAT THIS IS THE **LAST** ERRAND  
I'M RUNNING FOR **ANY** OF  
YOU SELF-APPOINTED  
MEMBERS OF THE  
GENTRY.



AND, SNOW,  
**DON'T** CALL ME  
STINKY ANYMORE. IT  
WAS NEVER MY NAME  
AND I NEVER  
LIKED IT.

FROM NOW ON I'M  
BROCK BLUEHEART, AND  
YOU'LL ADDRESS ME WITH  
**RESPECT**, OR I'LL THINK  
ABOUT TEACHING EVERYONE  
AN OVERDUE LESSON  
IN **MANNERS**.



NO NEED FOR THAT  
KIND OF TALK, STINK--  
UH, BROCK. WE'RE ALL  
**FRIENDS**  
HERE.

I GUESS I CAN GO  
SEE WHAT'S THE MATTER.  
I NEED TO TRY TO TALK TO  
ROSE AGAIN ANYWAY. DID  
YOU AT LEAST FIND OUT  
WHO'S **CALLING**?



SAID  
HIS NAME IS  
JACK.

OH?





LATER, BACK AT THE FARM...

AND THIS KEVIN THORN FELLOW CAN WIPE OUT THE WORLD WITH THE STROKE OF HIS PEN?

IF YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, THAT SEEMS **DUBIOUS**, ESPECIALLY COMING FROM JACK.



DO YOU **SENSE** ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, FRAU TOTENKINDER?

NOT A THING, THEN AGAIN, IF THESE **LITERALS** CREATURES ARE EXACTLY AS JACK DESCRIBES, THEN I SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO.



WHO CAN GAUGE ALL THE WAYS IN WHICH THE GODS WHO'VE **CREATED** YOU CRAFT YOUR LIFE? DID THEY WRITE ME WITH THE POWER TO **PERCEIVE** THEM?

NO WAY! THIS HAS TO BE ONE OF JACK'S **SCHEMES!** IT'S JUST TOO PREPOSTEROUS.



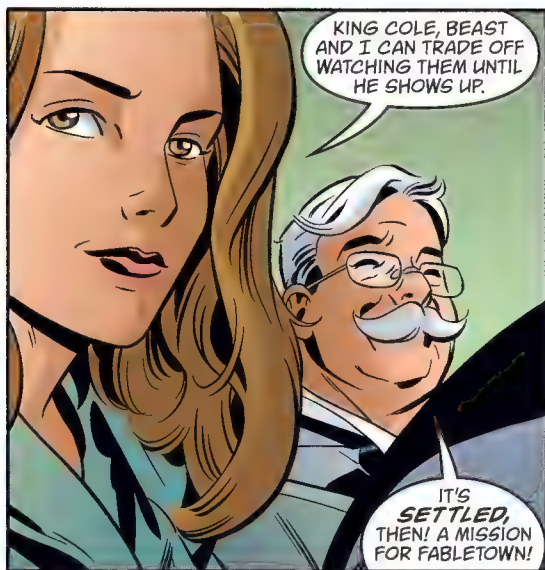
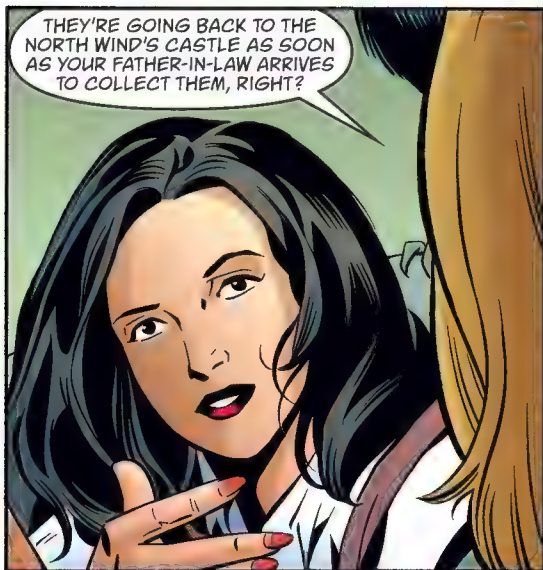
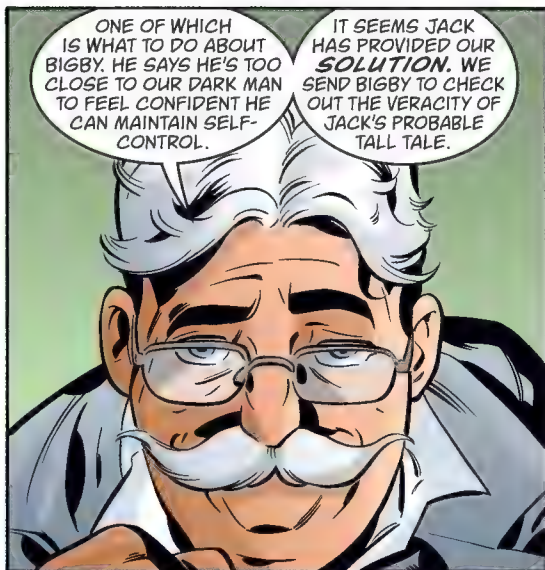
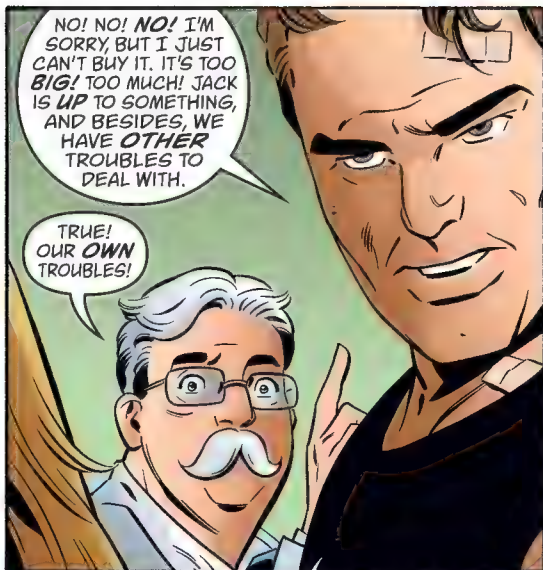
I AGREE. IT'S LIKELY A SCAM, BUT--

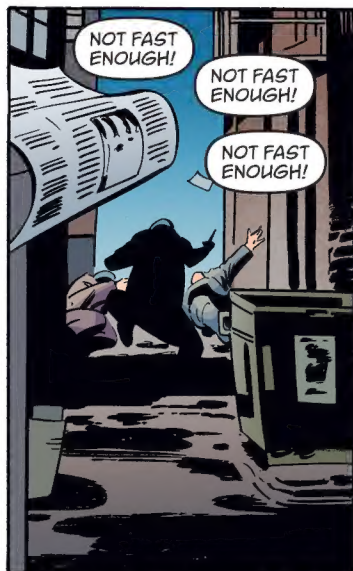
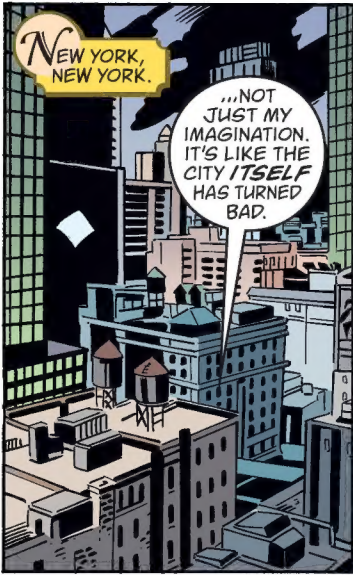
WHAT, SNOW?



I'M JUST RECALLING THE **LAST** TIME JACK TRIED TO WARN US OF SOMETHING-- THE WOODEN SOLDIERS INVASION.

WE DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM THEN AND PAID A HIGH **PRICE** FOR OUR SKEPTICISM.





HURRY ALONG  
WITH YOUR LABORS, MY  
WITHERINGS.

I'VE  
SWELLED  
YOUR NUMBERS A  
HUNDRED-  
FOLD.

AND MORE  
WILL COME, BY THE  
DAY AND BY THE HOUR,  
AS MY INFLUENCE  
SPREADS OUT AMONG  
THESE WEAK,  
FRIGHTENED  
SOULS.

*The Great  
Fables Crossover  
continues in  
Jack of Fables #33!*

*The New York Register*  
MURDERS SKYROCKET  
IN MANHATTAN!  
MAYOR CONSIDERS CALLING  
FOR NATIONAL GUARD TROOP

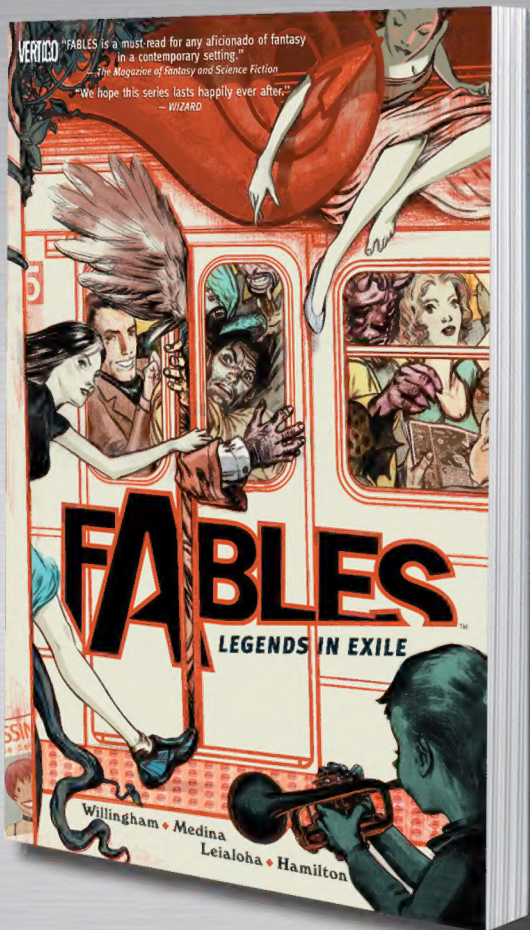
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# BILL WILLINGHAM

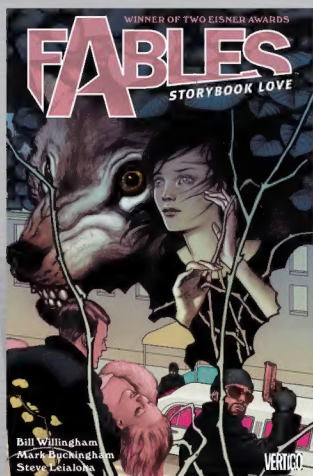
"[A] wonderfully twisted concept... features fairy tale characters banished to the noirish world of present-day New York."  
– THE WASHINGTON POST



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- VOL. 2: ANIMAL FARM
- VOL. 3: STORYBOOK LOVE
- VOL. 4: MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS
- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)
- VOL. 8: WOLVES
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



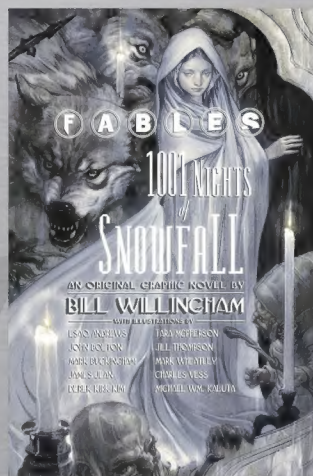
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